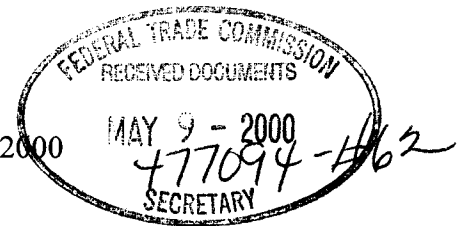


Federal Trade Commission
Office of the Secretary
600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Room 159
Washington, DC 20580

May 8, 2000



Re: Telemarketing Review-Comment
FTC File No. P994414

To the Secretary:


Several years ago, I had my name added to the "do not call" list to prevent unwanted telephone calls from telemarketers. I continued to leave my answering machine on at all times in order to screen my calls. In mid-1998, I began receiving calls from the moment I arrived home at 6:00 p.m., until 10:00 p.m., generally at the rate of one call per hour. On some days, I received several calls within an hour. The caller hung up without leaving a message on my answering machine. When I tried to determine the identity of the caller by using the *69 function, the recording indicated that since the call originated from outside of the service area, it could not be traced. These calls persisted through Thanksgiving and abated during Christmas week, recommencing after the holiday. My response was to change my telephone to an unlisted number.

Late in 1999, the same pattern of annoying calls resumed. The phone rang as I walked in the door from work, and continued for each hour until 9:00 or 10:00 p.m. The caller again refused to leave a message on my answering machine. Once more I tried to trace the calls, to no avail. I wrote again to have my name placed on the "do not call" list. The calls persisted. I now have "do not disturb" service on my telephone, which requires callers to have an access code in order to complete a call to me.

Attempting to ensure my privacy from the intrusions of telemarketers has caused me significant expense and inconvenience. I am paying monthly fees for both the unlisted number and the "do not disturb" service. It is patently unfair to establish a mechanism that places the burden on consumers to protect themselves from telemarketer abuse, just to have the intended targets totally disregard that mechanism. Enforcement is needed to ensure that aggressive telemarketers do not evade the "do not call" list through sequential dialing or other means. Additionally, consumers should be able to trace these annoying calls so that specific telemarketers can be appropriately sanctioned.

I appreciate your consideration of my comments, and would like to be informed of your results.

Sincerely,


Lynn S. Holloway, Esq.
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